



Howrey Docket No.: 02453.0021.NPUS00
Client Ref. No.: P109

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/773,487 Confirmation No.: 6629
Applicant : Merchant *et al.*
Filed : February 6, 2004
TC/A.U. : 2155
Examiner : Eng, David
Docket No. : 02453.0021.NPUS00
Customer No. : 27194 Date: July 13, 2006

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed March 23, 2006, having a shortened-statutory response period with extensions, extending through and including July 23, 2006, kindly amend the above captioned application as follows. **All amendments and remarks herein are made without prejudice.**

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
(37 C.F.R. §1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached hereto) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to *Mail Stop Amendment*, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

July 13, 2006
Date of Deposit

Joan M. Gordon
Name of Person Mailing Paper


Signature of Person Mailing Paper